

The Whisper-Led Life

"The Power Of A Whisper", Part 1 of 7
Pastor Vince DiPaola

What Leads Your Life Today?

I) AN EXAMPLE OF WHISPER-LED LIVES

"Meanwhile, Saul was still breathing out murderous threats against the Lord's disciples. He went to the high priest and asked him for letters to the synagogues in Damascus, so that if he found any there who belonged to the Way, whether men or women, he might take them as prisoners to Jerusalem.

As he neared Damascus on his journey, suddenly a light from heaven flashed around him. He fell to the ground and heard a voice say to him, 'Saul, Saul, why do you persecute me?' 'Who are you, Lord?' Saul asked. 'I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting,' he replied. 'Now get up and go into the city, and you will be told what you must do.' The men traveling with Saul stood there speechless; they heard the sound but did not see anyone. Saul got up from the ground, but when he opened his eyes he could see nothing. So they led him by the hand into Damascus. For three days he was blind, and did not eat or drink anything.

In Damascus there was a disciple named Ananias. The Lord called to him in a vision, 'Ananias!' 'Yes, Lord,' he answered. The Lord told him, 'Go to the house of Judas on Straight Street and ask for a man from Tarsus named Saul, for he is praying. In a vision he has seen a man named Ananias come and place his hands on him to restore his sight.' 'Lord,' Ananias answered, 'I have heard many reports about this man and all the harm he has done to your saints in Jerusalem. And he has come here with authority from the chief priests to arrest all who call on your name.' But the Lord said to Ananias, 'Go! This man is my chosen instrument to carry my name before the Gentiles and their kings and before the people of Israel. I will show him how much he must suffer for my name.'

Then Ananias went to the house and entered it. Placing his hands on Saul, he said, 'Brother Saul, the Lord—Jesus, who appeared to you on the road as you were coming here—has sent me so that you may see again and be filled with the Holy Spirit.' Immediately, something like scales fell from Saul's eyes, and he could see again. He got up and was baptized, and after taking some food, he regained his strength."

(Acts 9:1-19a, NIV)

*What We Can Learn From God's Whispers To Saul And Ananias:

- 1) Sometimes our ears get opened in the __MOST DRAMATIC WAYS__.
- 2) God speaks to us to provide __SPECIFIC, PERSONAL DIRECTION__.
- 3) God's words are often the start of some __LIFE TRANSFORMATION__.
- 4) Our obedience to God can open doors for __OTHERS TO GROW__.
- 5) We never know the good that follows __HEEDING GOD'S WHISPER__.

II) HOW CAN WE KNOW WHEN IT'S GOD?

An Important Checklist For Discerning When God Is Speaking

- 1) Ask, "God, is this __PROMPTING TRULY FROM YOU? __"

"Who are you, Lord?" Saul asked. (Acts 9:5a, NIV)

- 2) Ask, "Is what is being said __COMPLETELY BIBLICAL? __"

[Jesus prayed]: "Sanctify them by the truth; your word is truth." (John 17:17, NIV)

- 3) Ask, "Is this a __WISE THING TO DO? __?"

"The proverbs of Solomon... for... doing what is right and just and fair."
(Proverbs 1:1&3, NIV)

- 4) Ask, "Is this in __ALIGNMENT WITH WHO GOD MADE ME? __?"

(see Psalm 139)

- 5) Ask, "What do my __TRUSTWORTHY FRIENDS THINK OF IT? __?"

"...with many counselors, there is safety." (Proverbs 11:14b, NLT)

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